IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with strikethrough. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

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1.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of operating a speech recognition system, comprising:

augmenting the speech recognition system by providing an augmenting grammar set supplied by a first speech recognizer of a portal to a second speech recognizer;

transferring control over user interaction to the second speech recognizer independent of the portal; and

notifying the portal in response to an input which corresponds to the augmenting grammar set responsive to speech recognition executed via the second speech recognizer independent of the portal, thereby transferring control over the user interaction to the portal and performing subsequent speech recognition at the portal.

2.   (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the speech recognition system resides at an application server remote from the portal.

3.   (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising transferring control of a call back to the portal after notifying the portal that the input corresponds to the augmenting grammar set.

4.   (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising transferring a call to another application server which corresponds to the input.

5.   (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising directing the remote application server to perform one of a fixed set of pre-determined actions on behalf of the portal in response to a predetermined input.

6.   (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising directing the remote application server to perform an arbitrary routine on behalf of the portal in response to a predetermined input.